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LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and in response to the content of the letter from the representative of Iraq (S/23809) concerning the demilitarized zone, I wish to inform you of the following:

Iraq is seeking to raise the issue of violations in the demilitarized zone, providing information that contradicts the information set out in the Secretary-General's report on the matter (S/23766).

The Secretary-General's report contains a table of the violations observed by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), a table that summarizes violations by the Iraqi side and by Kuwait and the Member States cooperating with Kuwait.

Iraq accuses the United Nations of not having called for an end to the violations in question. It seems that the representatives of the Iraqi regime are unable to understand the content of the Secretary-General's reports, since the relevant report (S/23766) indicates that all violations were raised in writing by UNIKOM with the party concerned, with a view to having action taken to prevent a recurrence.

Iraq asserts that there has been an increase in the number of violations by Kuwait and that such violations are a matter of concern. However, if the representatives of the Iraqi regime were simply to read the Secretary-General's reports carefully they would realize that that is not the case. The relevant report indicates that in the reporting period the number of violations was considerably reduced as compared with the number recorded in the preceding six-month period, a fact that has prompted the Secretary-General to indicate in his most recent report that the situation in the demilitarized zone was calm.

In order to avoid incidents, as a matter of principle UNIKOM has required the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities to maintain a reasonable distance: 1,000 metres from the boundary line drawn on UNIKOM's map.

Kuwait has indicated that it is willing to respect the principle in question, provided that Iraq also respects it. Whereas Kuwait is implementing this principle, Iraq continues to maintain five police posts on the Kuwaiti side of the boundary line shown on the UNIKOM map and two posts on the Iraqi side of the boundary but closer than 1,000 metres to it. Maintaining the five above-mentioned posts inside Kuwaiti territory gives rise to incidents that are beyond the Kuwaiti side's control and that constitute a violation of Kuwait's territorial integrity.

Iraq requests that the reports of the Secretariat should follow a single rule of neutrality and objectivity. Such a request gives rise to questions as to Iraqi intentions, when Iraq puts forward such untruths and deceptions as those contained in its most recent letter. Undermining the credibility of UNIKOM or of the Secretary-General's reports on UNIKOM gives a negative impression of Iraq's position and its policy, whether declared or undeclared, with regard to its respect for the resolutions of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative